

JUL 22 1966

Approved For Release 1999/09/17 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000200290046-2

STATINTL

'Senate Probes' Dodd 'Billings'

Both U.S., Jaycees
List Trip Payment

By ROBERT WALTERS
Star Staff Writer

The Senate Ethics Committee was reported today to be investigating an allegation that Sen. Thomas J. Dodd billed both the Senate and a Los Angeles civic group for a 1964 trip to the West Coast.

Dodd, D-Conn., flew to Los Angeles from Friendship Airport on Feb. 26, 1964, and returned to Washington on March 4, according to records maintained by the secretary of the Senate.

Victor Stark, executive secretary of the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce, said Dodd was the principal speaker at his organization's Feb. 27 dinner.

Stark said that on March 9, 1964, he received a letter from Michael V. O'Hare, then an aide to Dodd, requesting \$320.78 for the trip and saying "your check should be made payable to Sen. Dodd."

Listed as Official

Stark said his organization had not expected to pay for Dodd's trip but did so after receiving the request.

Records kept by the secretary of the Senate show that Dodd was reimbursed by Congress.

Those records show that Dodd requested payment of \$320.78 from the account of the Juvenile Delinquency subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Dodd was understood to have justified the trip as official business by stating that he was investigating addiction to "percodan," a synthetic drug available at the time without a prescription. There was pressure then to require those buying the drug to have a prescription.

Dodd did not hold any hearings while in Los Angeles. Stark said the senator was invited to make the Jaycee speech after

newspapers there reported that he might hold hearings.

Dodd was then, and is now, chairman of the Juvenile Delinquency subcommittee. O'Hare formerly was Dodd's office manager in charge of maintaining all financial records.

O'Hare subsequently left Dodd's staff and is one of four ex-employees who have acknowledged removing Dodd's files, copying them and turning them over to newspaper columnists.

In another development, it was learned that the Ethics Committee has issued more than 20 subpoenas in its probe of Dodd's financial affairs after failing to secure Dodd's cooperation.

No subpoenas have been served on Dodd, but banks, other financial institutions and business firms with which the Connecticut Democrat had dealings have been ordered to produce records pertinent to Dodd's transactions.

Issuance of the subpoenas is the first time in the committee's five-month investigation it has been forced to demand information.

On April 22 Dodd publicly promised the committee "my full and conscientious cooperation." Again, on April 29, Dodd said he had "offered my full cooperation" in requesting the committee investigation two months earlier.

Committee members said Dodd was cooperative throughout the investigation of his relationship with Julius Klein, a Chicago public relations man who is registered as a foreign agent for West German business interests.

Newspaper columnists Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson, who first leveled the misconduct charges against Dodd, said the senator made an April 1964 trip to West Germany to help Klein "hang onto his clients" there.

Dodd has denied the charges and has filed a \$2 million libel suit against the columnists.

Now under investigation by the committee are Pearson-Anderson charges, also denied by Dodd, that the senator siphoned off for his personal use at least \$100,000 raised for campaign purposes.

A former aide to Dodd has alleged that the senator was

guilty of "misappropriation of hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign funds."

When the committee turned its attention to those charges Dodd at first refused to provide the data requested. His attorneys argued that the area of finances was not within the committee's purview.

Among the arguments offered on Dodd's behalf were a challenge to the committee's authority on grounds that election finances should be investigated by the Senate Rules Committee's elections subcommittee.

Dodd's attorneys also argued that no investigation of campaign finances should be undertaken until the Internal Revenue Service completes its probe of Dodd's tax returns.

Reject Delay

But committee members insisted on pursuing the probe, citing the Senate resolution which established the six-man, bipartisan watchdog committee and authorized it to "receive complaints and investigate allegations of improper conduct which may reflect upon the Senate."

When Dodd still refused to turn over his financial records, the committee voted to issue the subpoenas.

Dodd subsequently said he would cooperate, but declined to turn over the raw information in his possession. He asked a team of accountants to reconstruct virtually all his financial records for the past 10 years and has said he will provide the committee with the results of their work.

The committee, however, has insisted on access to the raw files and wants to make its own analysis.

Under Senate rules, a committee is the judge of its own authority. The appeal to a committee's decision in that area must be made to the full Senate.